

U.S.S.N. 09/683,605

2

201-0378 FAM (81047078)

IN THE CLAIMS:RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

1-3. (cancelled)

SEP 22 2006

4. (previously presented) A restraints control module (RCM) for a vehicle that has at least one impact sensor comprising:

a memory device for storing a deployment time of a deployment event;

a comparator comparing said deployment time with a fault time and determining whether said fault time corresponds with said deployment time; and

a controller electrically coupled to said memory device and said comparator, said controller determining when to deploy a restraint, storing said deployment time, and storing in said memory device a fault time corresponding to said deployment time, said fault time indicative of said fault within a component selected from at least one of the RCM and the at least one impact sensor; and

an indicator electrically coupled to said controller and indicating when said deployment time corresponds with said fault time.

5. (cancelled)

6. (previously presented) A module as in claim 4 wherein said indicator comprises at least one of: a pulsating indicator, a light bulb, an LED, a fluorescent light, an audible signal, a visual signal, a 7-segment display, an analog gage, a digital meter, a video system, and a hazard light.

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

U.S.S.N. 09/683,605

3

201-0378 FAM (81047078)

12. (previously presented) A restraints control module (RCM) for a vehicle that has at least one impact sensor comprising:

an indicator;

a memory device for storing a deployment start time of a deployment event; and

a controller electrically coupled to said indicator and said memory device, said controller determining when to deploy a restraint and storing said deployment start time and duration in said memory device;

said controller storing a fault time in said memory device and signaling said indicator when said fault time corresponds to said deployment start time and duration, said fault time indicative of a fault within a component selected from at least one of the RCM and the at least one impact sensor.

13. (previously presented) A module as in claim 12 wherein said indicator continuously indicating that the RCM has been on a vehicle that has been involved in a collision.

14. (previously presented) A module as in claim 12 further comprising a comparator electrically coupled to said controller, said comparator comparing said deployment time with a fault time and determining whether said fault time corresponds with said deployment time.

15. (previously presented) A module as in claim 12 wherein information stored in said memory device is uneraseable, unresettable, and unoverwritable.

16-26. (cancelled)

27. (previously presented) A module as in claim 4 wherein said controller stores said fault time when said fault time corresponds to said deployment time.